

# ELITE

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# ELITE

*FEPS, where elites are made..*

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Designed by Ramy Magdy Ahmed in October 2018



Special Coverage  
for FEPS anti-  
Covid efforts

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Dedicated to the pure soul of  
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**Our Editors (from left): Dina Ehab, Ramy Magdy and Omar Alaa**

His Excellency Ambassador Hany Khallaf, former Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs for Arab Affairs, in an interview with ELITE

## **The Arab League must provide a bridge for dialogue with Iran and Turkey, and everything that is Islamic must not be demonized**

Cairo : Ramy Magdy, Dina Ehab, Omar Alaa and Mirna Ossama,  
Revised by Jasmine Nabil

With utmost hospitality, we were met by Ambassador Hani Khallaf, former Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs for Arab affairs, at his house. Touching upon the personal and human sides in the ambassador's life in the meeting, we spoke about his upbringing and education - being a descendant of a renowned family who are practiced in diplomatic work-, and passing through his studies in our college. It was an immense pleasure to meet the one of the Faculty's very first graduates, and to get acquainted with the atmosphere during the faculty's early years and its journey to become one of the most established faculties in Egypt. We then turned to his career and how he joined the diplomatic corps, at the end, we concluded our dialogue with a comprehensive review of the regional arena.

We viewed his rich library, stacked with books; for which he was reader in part and author in others, most prominently we saw "Osama El-Baz -A Life's March", and "The Handwriting of Celebrities", which is considered manuscripts and documents for the celebrities with whom the ambassador dealt.

From piano and chess, getting 20/20 in Prof. Hamed Rabiea's course, sharing roles and reforming the Arab League, to a delicate combination of pride in cultural heritage balanced with rational engagement with the requirements of the times. It was a really valuable dialogue with a man that combines a comprehensive theoretical vision and practical knowledge of the wheels of diplomatic work.

Following is the transcript of the interview.....

• How did your relationship with the Faculty of Economics and Political Science start and why did you choose it?

The Faculty of Economics and Political Science was newly established, as such, I found in it an opportunity to prepare myself to join the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Moreover, during the first two years, the lectures were held at Faculty of Law in which my grandfather, Abdul Wahab Khallaf, was a professor of Sharia.

When I was in high school they used to call me the ambassador. I knew that my career would eventually lead me to the foreign affairs, because there are numerous role models and ambassadors in our family; such as my father Abdel Moneim Khallaf who was from the first generation who founded the Arab League, along side Azam Pasha. He eventually became the Director of Social and Labor affairs department. Therefore, I loved the diplomatic career because of the examples of diplomats and first generation founders with whom I engaged while I was young, it is from this that I was filled with my love for work in the Arab and international areas.

Moreover, I was studying literature and Arts and did not find myself in the natural sciences and mathematics. I found my strength in the language I possessed, whether Arabic or English in addition to the diplomatic skills that my father cultivated in me.

• In your opinion, how does the college affect the personality of its students?

Not all students benefit from what the college gives, only those students who are serious about it. The advantage of being a political science graduate, is that the college affects the student's communication skills teaching them how to settle disputes between people. It develops their ability to deal with the conflicts that surround them on the social, familial and political levels, as well as how to deal with the history, the future, what is possible and what is impossible.

• How was your relationship with the professors in college?

I had a good relationship with many professors such as Ibrahim Saqr, Rifaat Al-Mahjoub and Fathallah al-Khatib, Samaan Boutros FaragAllah, all of whom are professors I cherish. I am proud to be a student of Hamed Rabi` and I was the first student to get a 20/20 full mark in his subject, I thought at first that he gave me 10/20, because he would not normally give full marks to students.



## Our foreign policy should share more roles with our Arab brothers so as to restore some of the deteriorated intra-Arab trust

All people agreed that he was a genius, atypical professor, and held vast knowledge. He had seven PhDs in French, Italian, English and Arabic, and I consulted him a lot even in my personal matters.

• What are the most memorable situations you faced during college?  
Upon graduation, I was ranked the third in my cohort, and had the right to be a teaching assistant, but there were some security remarks regarding me. I used to publish two magazines in college, "Hadith Elrooh" and "Elra'ie elakhar" which were anti-mainstream, which was the Socialist Youth organization. The organisation sought to produce youth that fit their molds and stereotypes, consequently, we criticized the organization and its thoughts, after we took compulsory lessons. That was because adopted conservative rather than socialist, thought. Nevertheless, my personal relationship with my socialist colleagues has not been affected. Till now, some of my best friends are Abdel-Qader Shuaib, Ahmed Youssef, Usama Al-Ghazali Harb, and Othman Muhammad Othman.

I was close to all groups except those who excessively supported class divisions, which was a characteristic of some of the wealthy youth, despite belonging to the rich class myself, I believed that liberals should deal with all classes. I do not support excessive openness either as I belonged to the conservative movement.

• For whom is Hani Khallaf grateful?  
For my parents, my father taught me how to be serious ever since I was young, he used to accompany me to the Arab League and the Muslim Youth Association, where he was the head of the scout movement. He was always keen on highlighting the differences between the different religious speeches of the imams of mosques. He was greatly concerned with the quality of religious discourse and saw the importance of turning away from flattening it. He had a vision for the renewal of religious discourse, which is the rationalization of religiosity, so that rational calculations would enter into it and we would not only be spiritual.

I also learned from my father writing and mastering the Arabic language, which enabled me to be the first reference for the Arabic language in the Egyptian diplomacy, and many diplomats used to resort to me to correct the language.

As for my mother, it was the other calming side of life, the relieving and relaxing one. She was the one able to calm and relieve me which my father could not do.

On the professional level, I am grateful to Osama Al-Baz. He has a unique personality, and possessed exceptional abilities in diplomatic work. He did not like fitting into molds, open-minded and humble. even though he was deputy MOFA, he used the metro and public transportation. From him I realized that this is the best route in a diplomatic career.

• How did you join the diplomatic corps and what are the most prominent moments in your career?

Between graduating from college and joining the diplomatic corps, I worked as a broadcaster/ presenter at "Sawt Al-Arab" station, there, my colleagues were; Ahmed Arouk, Sabri Abu al-Majd and Ameih Abdel Aziz. I got to know radio and television, but it was a temporary stage

My delay in joining the MOFA was due to a delay in my examination results for a month. This was because of some data review, and security considerations for my activities during university years. Then, the result appeared and I joined the Institute for Diplomatic Training, for two years, at that time ambassador Mohamed Al-Tabie was the dean of the institute and Osama Al-Baz was the vice dean. Al-Baz was impressing in his way and style with the students. His lectures were so exciting and far from being simply teaching theory, he made the students deliver the lecture, not the lecturer. Afterwards, I joined the Egyptian mission in the United Nations, then I became a Consul in Australia. I went back to the United Nations European headquarters in Geneva and I take pride in that period, when I was elected president of the Group of 77.



## Libya is trapped in a proxy war. And engaging Qaddafi's supporters can facilitate communication between Hefatar and Al-Wefaq Forces

Among the most prominent milestones in my diplomatic career is my, service at the Egyptian embassy in Morocco, then the embassy of Yugoslavia, and the period of the embassy in Libya.

• You have a long history in diplomatic work as an Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs for Arab affairs, how do you evaluate the current Egyptian role in the Arab circle?

Unfortunately, the Egyptian role is declining, not for reasons related to the Egyptian regime, but because of the Egyptian culture. Egyptians have enormous challenges that make them self-sufficient, which does not prepare Egypt to take over the roles it used to have before, such as the developmental role, the educational role, and the role of political enlightenment.

We also have many problems that I mentioned in many of my articles and studies that have been published, such as the tendency towards unilateral thinking based on the idea of "either/ or," not on reconciliation of opposites. Furthermore, we do not have the correct political action methodology on many issues including foreign policy .

For example, our foreign policy in the Arab region is not based on the principle of sharing roles with others, for example, Egypt has excessively nominated Egyptians for leadership positions in the Arab organization. The matter is not limited to positions only, but the principle of sharing roles should include certain tasks for states, such as some of The Gulf countries that should have the task of dialogue with Iran, or countries of North Africa that should have the task of communicating with France and Europe, to benefit more from the comparative advantages of each country regarding a specific file.

• Do you think, Your Excellency, that the balance of trust between Arab countries currently allows them to accomplish this cooperation? The true inter-Arab relations are bad and do not qualify for this kind of cooperation. For example, Gulf countries are troubled by the Sultanate of Oman because it has an independent vision in managing its foreign relations with Iran, but we must start even with a few small steps.

• You once worked as an Arab League delegate in Iraq, how do you assess the Iraqi situation today in light of the demonstrations calling for the toppling of the sectarian quota system?

I remember that the experience of Iraq manifested to me the absurdity of the distinction between what is Shiite and what is Sunni. When I went as an envoy to the Arab League in Iraq, it was a sensitive period in the history of Iraq between 2008-2009, I met different people from different sects, they were the smartest people I have met. I cherish a personal friendship with the president of The Islamic Supreme Council Sheikh Ammar al-Hakim who gave me a shield. I did not find a difference between the one who is Shiite and the one who is Sunni.

Therefore, I am not a supporter of attacking Hezbollah, I have always been a supporter of Hezbollah, and its militant roles against Israel to this day. There is no doubt in that and we should appreciate them, but we can blame them that they do not heed the Arab call as much as they do towards the Shiite rhetoric.

• But some believe that Hezbollah is an arm of the Islamic Republic of Iran, what do you think of this and your opinion on the Iranian expansion in the region?

The Iranian Islamic Revolution imposed itself on the surrounding affairs, wanting to export the revolution. This is a mistake for the Islamic thinkers, as they see that revolutions can be artificially and intentionally achieved. It was possible for Iran to be a role model in the Islamic world, but they provided a tool of their condemnation of the idea of exporting the revolution.

This does not prevent me from asking the Arab league to create a permanent channel for communication with Iran, through some countries in the context of sharing roles, in order to reduce Arab-Iranian hostilities. I recommend the same thing in light of the relationship with Turkey, we have achieved dialogue with Israel, why not with the rest of the regional neighborhood?



## Egyptian domestic politics needs a major reconciliation in order to prevent making future revanchist generations

We must apply the principle of dialogue with the other and allow it to be present in our foreign policy.

You had diplomatic representation for Egypt in Libya, and you have an important presence in the Libyan affairs. How do you assess the current Libyan situation with the intensification of the conflict between the Saraj government and the Haftar army?

What Libya is experiencing now is a proxy war, and what Libya is witnessing denotes that external forces holds control of the fate of the Libyan people. Moreover, fighting untrained elements with no professional training, affects civilians, and there induces great human cost.

The solution is to involve all Libyan parties in the dialogue, including the symbols of the Qaddafi regime, who, in my opinion, may serve as a bridge for communication between the eastern and western blocs.

In my opinion, the Libyan crisis can be solved by forming a working group consisting of the United States of America, Russia, the European Union and France, on behalf of the regional parties to the crisis, especially since their conflicts are intertwined and it is difficult for them to reach an agreement.

After that, a neutral referendum should be organized, supervised by the working group or any party accepted by the Libyans, which will pave the way for internal stability and stop foreign interference.

We do not want to repeat the historical mistake we made in 2011, and allow external intervention to resolve the Libyan conflict, by calling the Arab League to NATO, a move that I consider to be a stain in the history of the Arab league.

Recently, US President Donald Trump announced his plan for peace in the Middle East, or what is known as the Deal of the Century.

How do you evaluate the file of the Palestinian issue in general and do you support the opinion that prefers sitting at the negotiating table with Israel?

Yes, it is necessary to sit at the negotiating table, and this is what is seen by many Egyptian diplomats, such as Amr Moussa, who made earlier statements that have voiced a lot of what was on my mind. It is not important to judge Trump's intentions regarding the proposal for the peace plan, but the most important thing is to sit in peace talks with the other party presenting our objection to Trump's proposal, and offering an alternative proposal. From here negotiations begin, and we do not judge the negotiations before they start to fail.

The principle of division into phases may be an important point in resolving the issue. For example, obtaining a state that does not have full sovereignty at first with the condition that the Palestinian side is not restricted, then over time we get a full sovereign state.

Can the Israelis be persuaded by the Palestinian proposal? We convinced them of peace, and convinced them of Taba before that, why not?

Our attention was drawn to the mix of Islamic heritage with Arabic in your education and literature, and under the current demonization of what is Islamic, how can this fusion between what is Arabic and Islamic be restored?

This is a good question, especially since it is not posed on the scene now, although the mixing between Islamic heritage and Arab identity is something that must be seriously proposed. In my estimation, we should not demonize all that is Islamic, why shouldn't we come with figures from Hamas or Islamic Jihad to inquire about their experiences in the mixing of what is Arab and Islamic. There are also countries that have achieved development while maintaining an Islamic identity such as Malaysia, for example.



Egypt is more qualified to lead Arab thought and enlightened Islamic thought, more than any other country because it has pride in the Islamic identity, and because of its position in the heart of the Arab and Islamic civilizations.

Moreover, we must have a desire to listen to what is new, to renew religious discourse in a manner inclined to rationality, and not to reduce religion to rites.

- Of course, we are in presence of a person who is interested in public affairs, so how do you assess the internal Egyptian situation, politically and economically?

Economically, there are many projects that were constructed in Egypt in a very wonderful way that can lead Egypt to the ranks of developed countries, For instance, the new administrative capital project, the new Suez Canal, projects in the services sector, health insurance, energy, and the productive sectors. In addition to steps aimed at economic reform such as floating the pound. Accordingly, the decision maker should be thanked for daring to allocate huge funds for these projects.

Politically, I believe in my personal assessment that priorities must be set in the direction of political reconciliations. The opposing should have gains from governing. We should recognize the idea of dialogue among the different, because dialogue always leads to positive results. This issue is important to prevent

elements of the people from moving to extremism, and prevent the creation of generations that seek revenge leading to outbreaks of violence.

- Finally, what do you advise our students who aspire to join the diplomatic corps?

First, they should read a lot about various political and diplomatic issues, through studies and articles dealing with political phenomena and formulating foreign policies.

Secondly, proficiency in foreign language. The Egyptian examiner is no longer tolerant for the lack of language proficiency as it was before, given that the competition is fierce. Some applicants may be weak in the scientific content, but their strong language influences the examining committee. Language can be developed through language learning centers or travelling to foreign countries, if possible.

Thirdly, taking into account the requirements of the diplomatic position. This includes taking into account the confidentiality and sensitivity of the information, and consequently not to disclose everything that is on your mind, and arranging one's priorities.

Finally, be a humane, be humble and not arrogant. On a personal level, as a child, I have trophies in chess and I loved playing the piano, with my friend Hassan Al-Gretly, the owner of "El-warsha" group, who completed his career in art. Therefore, do not think that obtaining the diplomatic position should retain a person from enjoying his life or look down on some habits.



## ▶ Distance Learning efforts against Corona

Cairo : Youmna Sayed

In light of the measures taken by the state to face the Corona virus, President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi had taken some decisions related to the educational process in the meantime and to contain the crisis; so he suspended schooling for school and university students for two weeks, starting on Sunday, March 15, 2020. He also allocated 100 billion pounds to finance a comprehensive plan for combating the virus and for the precautionary measures that would follow.

And in implementing this comprehensive plan, the dean of faculty of economics and political science , Prof. Dr. Mahmoud Alsaid had taken number of measures. Accordingly, the system of e-learning was activated by using technological means of communication. And for students who have technical problems with surfing the Internet, or those who do not have a computer, the college is providing CDs containing all the lectures at the end of each week.

Members of the teaching staff and the assistants had a significant role in participating actively in the process of uploading the lectures on the faculty's YouTube channel through the link..

[http://www.feps.edu.eg/en/lectures?](http://www.feps.edu.eg/en/lectures?fbclid=IwARoFivneoZkRCi1FKEFzKngnntaXLzgc8JUZlAhzjK8lJMc-S7uA8UeapZI)

[fbclid=IwARoFivneoZkRCi1FKEFzKngnntaXLzgc8JUZlAhzjK8lJMc-S7uA8UeapZI](http://www.feps.edu.eg/en/lectures?fbclid=IwARoFivneoZkRCi1FKEFzKngnntaXLzgc8JUZlAhzjK8lJMc-S7uA8UeapZI)

Members of the teaching staff are on a regular communication with students in the meantime to answer all their inquiries, and the faculty is doing its best to improve the quality of electroinc communication and its content to make the e-learning process successful.



This was after the visit of the Minister of Higher Education Dr. Khaled Abdel Ghaffar and the President of Cairo University Dr. Mohamed Othman El-Khosht to the Faculty of Economics and Political Science on Sunday 15th of March 2020 to follow the faculty's preparations to continue the educational process through e-learning with the electronic means of communication. Besides, the director of module and computer unit ,and the social science computing assistant professor Dr. Shahinaz Gamal had explained how the professors can communicate directly with the students through the Moodle system, and how to upload the lectures on the faculty's YouTube channel.

In addition, Dr. Mahmoud Alsaid decided to postpone the submission of assignments and evaluations during the period from Sunday March 15 to Saturday March 28 in all courses without exception, and also to cancel the mid-term exams with 20% of the grade be allocated to the year's work in the form of assignments from the course professor and the other 80% will be for the final exam according to the statement of Cairo University Council on March 16, 2020.

There was also a battalion of chemical warfare which sterilized the faculty as a precautionary procedure for curbing the prevalence of corona virus and to protect the students and the faculty's personnel health.







## COVID-19 Updates on Egypt

By: Zeina Marei and Reem Omran



Coronaviruses are a series of viruses, including SARS, MERS and COVID-19, attacking the respiratory system. Identified after its first outbreak in Wuhan, China; COVID-19 was labeled to being the latest addition to the coronavirus family, whereas CO is short for corona, VID for virus, and 19 indicating when it first appeared - December 2019. Through tourism, the virus was able to reach a mass amount, being characterised as a pandemic by the World Health Organization (WHO).

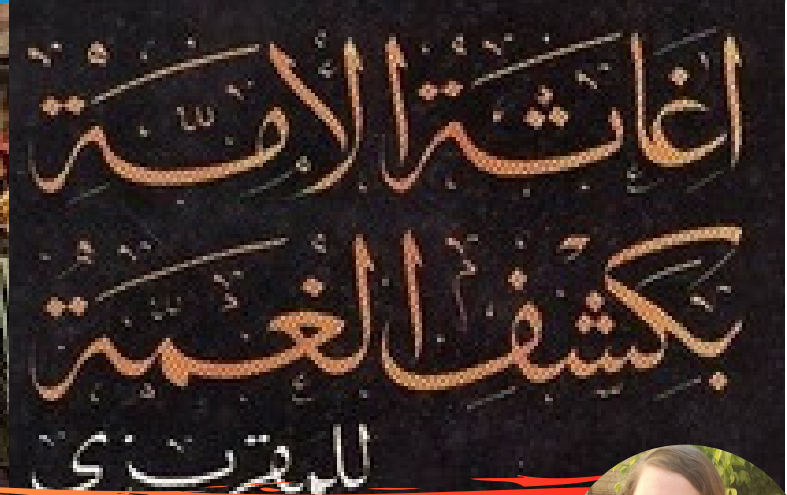
On the 14th of February, the Egyptian ministry of health announced its first case – a Chinese national at Cairo International Airport. The patient was isolated effective immediately, preventing its spread. Moreover, a Nile cruise ship in Luxor witnessed 45+ reported cases, 12 of which are staff members, initiating the outbreak in Egypt. Conclusions drawn proved that the main reason behind COVID-19 in Egypt is tourism.

Due to the rapid transmissibility of the virus, over 200,000 tested positives for COVID-19 worldwide, with around 9,982 reported deaths. Approximately half of those infected have safely recovered. Egypt, with 14 new confirmed case on the 18th of March, has reached a total of 210 confirmed cases. The ministry of health has so far reported 6 coronavirus deaths only. these numbers reached around 30 deaths on Friday 27 March and more than 500 cases too. Numbers can not be followed as cases increase little by little until ELITE is issued.

Precautions were taken to flatten the curve, in other words, lag the virus' spread. Nationwide decisions by the Egyptian president and government officials are being issued, to ensure the wellbeing and safety of citizens, whilst decreasing contamination. Shutdowns of all schools and universities took place on the 15th of March, as well as sports clubs and learning centres for two weeks. a partial curfew was also imposed from 7pm to 6am , in addition to a total shutdown in Friday and Saturday.

Consequently, students are attending online classes to continue their studies. Events involving mass gatherings such as weddings, conferences and funerals are banned, minimising physical contact between people, as closing all malls, restaurants and cafes to c. Nonetheless, Egyptian residents are handling the issue with cautiousness, always on the go with masks, hand sanitisers and alcohol spray, if not quarantined until further notice.

As well as Egypt might be handling the situation by providing proper healthcare, the virus still poses a threat to the Egyptian economy. Tourism is crippling in Egypt since its first outbreak - the Nile cruise - and the suspension of air traffic till the end of March might cause further damage to the industry. Losses due to the lockdown might reach \$144 billion; \$143 stemming from suspending, and \$1 billion tourism losses. This in turn will cause an increase Egypt's total unemployment, and a drop in the GDP growth. However, compared to other countries, Egypt's economy is handling the outbreak pretty well. We only hope that this pandemic is over before we start enduring its real consequences.



## AL-MAQRIZI'S RESCUE AND UNCOVERING THE CORONA PLIGHT

BY: PROF. DR. MOHAMED SOFFAR, PROFESSOR OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

TRANSLATED BY: Nadine Hesnam

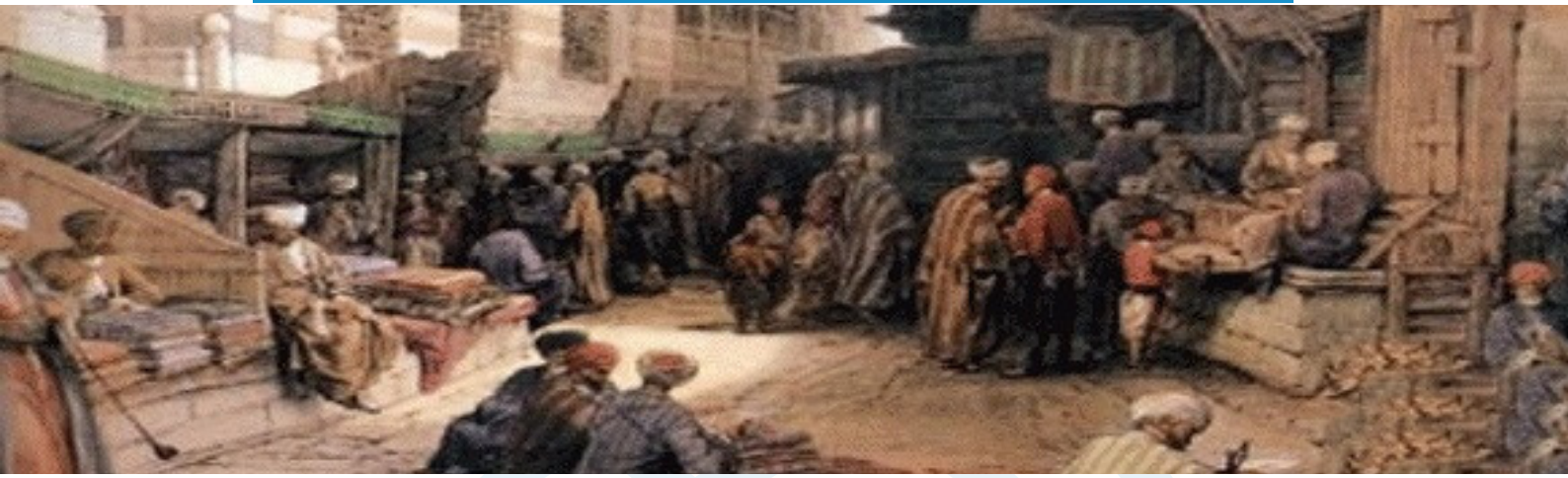
The outbreak of the coronavirus, with the ensuing panic and havoc all around the world, serves to remind of the devastating crises elaborated upon by Taqi al-Din al-Maqrizi in his short treatise 'The Rescue of the Nation Through Plight Eradication' (Eghathatt Al Omma be Kashf Al Ghomma). The death toll described by this historian surged to the extent that burials became difficult and corpses were left lying in the fields, houses, streets and sidewalks; creating a rotten scent and deserted cities. Accordingly, al-Maqrizi, in his description of this ravaging phenomenon, opted for an Arabic term (the two deaths) that indicates more numerous and frequent death than usual. Although he mentions a lot of details about the atrocities committed during these crises, his thesis is much simpler: it tackles the relationship between natural factors (Nile shortage, wind, dust, plagues and diseases) and social catastrophes which are accompanied by forms of destruction of life (rising prices, disappearing commodities, cultivation loss, famine, rupture of daily life, emigration and desertion) as an indirect result.

The effect of natural causes reaches the human domain (psychological, social and historical) through a two-sided gate: economic corruption (market manipulation of prices and quantities of goods and food) and political decay (aggravated political struggle and ruler's inability to perform state functions).

This means that destruction of life is not inevitable; the gate can be sealed by good measures and good governance, which will either preempt the catastrophe and prevent it, or stop it from worsening, or reverse its course and remedy it. In other words, al-Maqrizi places a large share of responsibility on the human factor, both economically and politically, whether in initiating or rectifying these catastrophes. There are also pieces of evidence in the text that al-Maqrizi was referring to in the Quranic tale of Joseph's crisis management – through what is known as the strategic reserves policy – as the ideal case of good governance.

The attentive reader – in Straussian terms – can extract abstract patterns of how the ruling authorities in Egypt, throughout the different ages, dealt with such crises and catastrophes, basing this abstraction on accounts of humorous yet tragic incidents. In the first scenario, the ruling government might not interfere at all, turning a blind eye to the situation and propelling a severe crisis, or matters might solve themselves by the good will of God. In another case, the government might interfere in a much positive way by addressing the roots of the crisis in terms of imposing its control over markets, setting prices and quantities and punishing exploiters. In this way, it can stop the deterioration or at least remedy the destruction. In the third scenario, the government might interfere in a negative way by addressing the symptoms and not actually solving the crisis itself. This is done by reframing the situation as an issue of giving out charity to the poor and needy, which is an illusion intended to divert attention from the government's responsibility.

Against the backdrop of this theoretical framework presented by al-Maqrizi, the question arises of what to make of the current pattern of government response to the corona ordeal. Al-Maqrizi gives us a true classification of the historical positions of governments towards crises of all times, a classification that would be extremely useful in evaluating the current measures being taken. However, it is difficult to do this evaluation right now due to several factors, such as the general and not unprecedented bureaucratic confusion in dealing with emergencies, as well as the overwhelming and reckless disregard for the seriousness of the virus and its ramifications by the people. In addition to the sea of rumors and disinformation about the situation domestically and internationally, as well as the mocking commentaries and photoshopped pictures of the virus, people, officials and pretty much everything and anything.



Further muddying the waters is the general lack of sufficient trust in the credibility and feasibility of current measures due to the absence of actual two-way communication channels normally found in any political system.

These difficulties open the door to many conflicting speculations about the current plan to manage our present catastrophe. One of these speculations is that there are sincere efforts being exerted towards controlling the situation only to be rendered useless on the ground by insufficient allocated resources and idle preparations. The other speculation is that there is actual confusion and delay in taking the necessary measures. This line of speculation is supported by the change in the narrative of the cue-receiving media from first underestimating the virus and denying the existence of cases to now urging people to cooperate with the authorities and the measures they are taking.

Nevertheless, we need to transcend the present moment and attempt to look on the bright side, aided perhaps by the logical premise presented by al-Maqrizi in his aforementioned treatise. Al-Maqrizi picked up from his mentor Ibn Khaldun the importance of the psychological factor in sociological analysis. He argued that the psychological factor or rather psychological fragility leads to a false belief in the exceptionality of the present moment; that the present moment is unprecedented in the past and insurmountable in the future. To illustrate this, he gives a nice example of a man who feels that his past experience with fever is easier and lighter than his current experience lying awake in bed disturbed by flea stings. Surely, the opposite is rationally correct; however, the heavy weight of the present moment is what leads to this false assumption. Therefore, al-Maqrizi countered the effect of the psychological factor by conducting a historical review of the cases of adversity and famine in Egypt from ancient times to his age.

If this Egyptian historian resorted to socio-historical analysis to transcend his present moment, we ought to resort to philosophical analysis to transcend our own. To do this, we should ask ourselves about the meaning or benefit or use of this epidemic from an existential perspective; how does the outbreak of epidemics and deadly diseases that know no borders affect the existence of man as man, regardless of his era, place, religion, culture, colour and gender? In this regard,

Muhammad Iqbal had an inspiring and hence vital quote: “surely the present moment is one of the great crisis in the history of modern culture. The modern world stands in need of biological renewal.” And what could possibly be more effective in bringing about biological renewal than deadly diseases, dear reader? This process of biological renewal would then aid man in renewing the base of his cultural, social and historical existence, according to Iqbal.

This logic comes close to Social Darwinism in terms of mechanisms. However, the two differ in their starting points, as evident in the two following historical examples. First, we have the pre-Islamic Arabs who dedicated themselves and their resources to fighting pointless tribal wars and conflicts. The only valuable outcome of these wars is that they transformed the tribes into a trained warrior nation filled with values of knighthood, courage, risk-taking and fighting skills, as well as purity from all elements of human corruption. Thus, when the time came, the selected members of this nation took upon themselves the mission of spreading the word of God, sacrificing themselves in His name against Arab and non-Arab infidels, in what became historically known as the Muslim Conquests.

The second example is the European Jews under Nazi rule. The oppression, displacement, arrest, torture and killing that this group faced from the time the Nazi came to power until Berlin fell to the Allied powers led to a renewal in the biological base of Jewish existence. Thus, the weak parasitic human elements of the ghettos were discarded paving the way for the emergence of a new selected breed of Jews, known as the “Muscular Jews,” who believed that they should not surrender nor subordinate for the sake of survival. On the contrary, they would fight for their existence. Again, when the historical opportunity arose, these stronger human elements fought and militarily defeated the Arab armies, forming what is known as the “Sabra Generation,” that carried the pillars of the Zionist state. Ask yourself – dear reader – how many Arabs are exchanged for just one Israeli prisoner, and you will know the value of this individual whose existential biological base was renewed in the diaspora.

An epidemic might thus be dressed in hardship and affliction on the surface, but it does not necessarily carry all evil on the inside. A possible blessing in disguise, whether we live to see it or not!



## A delegation from FEPS visits the Egyptian Parliament

By: **Abdelrahman Osama - Editor**

The faculty of Economics and Political Science organized, on Thursday 5 March 2020, a unique field visit to the Egyptian parliament, as field visits are a subject of interest to the faculty. The visit was attended by the dean of the Faculty of Economics and Political Science, Dr. Mahmoud Al-Said and a number of professors, students and members of the faculty.

The visit started with the reception and welcome of the parliamentarians, especially the representative Ehab Al-Tamawi from the Shubra and Rawd al-Faraj district, where he welcomed the dean of the faculty, Dr. Mahmoud Al-Said, its professors and students, and then we moved to the Senate hall, where the design was magnificent, that the Egyptian Senate is a council scheduled to be established within the Egyptian constitutional amendments 2019, but with specific powers and clear tasks, similar to many councils in the countries of the world, and that its role is not marginal and this council was excluded In the Constitution of Egypt 2014 and it was called "The Egyptian Shura Council". The Senate has a great importance, which is reflected in building a representative system that ensures a better balance in exercising power, control and the success of the legislative function in terms of ensuring the work of a calm and balanced parliament and chamber.

The officials in charge of organizing the visit presented a historical video that reflects the importance of the Egyptian parliament and its important roles throughout history and its establishment. Then came the speech of Representative Ehab Al-Tamaoui and expressed his happiness and welcome to us and talked about the extent of his pride and pride in the faculty of economics and political science as it is the home and cradle of the elite, then moved Speaking to talk about the importance of the role of youth in society and the extent of its important impact on the country's renaissance, then he talked about the men of the Egyptian Army and the extent of their sacrifices for Egypt, after which we talked

about the Egyptian parliament that (according to the 2014 Egypt constitution)-the former people's assembly (according to the 1971 constitution of Egypt) It is the legislative authority of the Republic Arab Egypt and assumes various functions and stipulated in Chapter V of the Constitution, according to Article 101 the House of Representatives assumes the authority to legislate, approve the general policy of the state, the general plan for economic and social development, and the general budget of the state, and exercises control over the actions of the executive authority, all in the same manner Outlined in the constitution.

Then came the word Dr. Mahmoud Al-Said, as he expressed his welcome and appreciation for this council and its deputies, the importance of the council and its role which is of great importance in the legislative process, and expressed his thanks to Deputy Ehab Al-Tamawi, who gave him the shield of the Faculty of Economics and Political Science.

We then had a tour of the House of Representatives where the ancient style, the Egyptian Parliament building in the heart of Cairo carries a high historical and architectural value. We went to the Library of the House of Representatives, one of the evidences of many stories witnessed by Parliament throughout its history, in its two rooms, "The People's Assembly and Shura", according to their previous names. Once you enter this place, you can bring all the personalities that have influenced the Egyptian and parliamentary state over the past times.

The library located in the complex building of the Egyptian Parliament attachments contains a huge number of Egyptian and foreign legal books, and it also includes distinctive options for some books of heads of previous parliaments, as well as all disciplines that reflect the parliamentary work in Egypt, as it is the oldest parliaments in the Arab world.

The Parliamentary Library includes records of the sessions that chronicle multiple periods of time, which are underlined by many of the tales and tales of deputies who enriched parliamentary life.



You can pick up an important report containing the speech of the late President Mohamed Anwar Sadat after he announced the signing of the Camp David agreement, and its impact on achieving peace in the region. The Library of the Egyptian Parliament is one of the largest parliamentary libraries in the Arab world, so that students of science and law often resort to it in order to obtain information useful for the study or research they are preparing.

We went to the House of Representatives Museum, where it is one of the most important museums that contain antique holdings and medals, the Museum of the House of Representatives, next to the chariot and throne seat on which King Farouk was sitting when he attended parliament sessions, before the July 1952 revolution, there are a lot of gold medals and appellations Which Egypt has won on many occasions that have passed through its history.

In the Museum of Parliament Building in the middle of Cairo, there is a rare collection of gold, silver, bronze and copper medals, and its history dates back to being gifts that came from a group of heads of international parliaments, senior leaders and politicians For two internationals, a rare medal of silver comes on behalf of the European Parliament, which he gave to the museum at the head of an official delegation in one of his visits to Parliament. The idea of establishing a museum inside the parliament came to preserve the Egyptian heritage in the field of political, legislative and parliamentary practice, and the same model exists from the museum in a number of countries, where many major private countries that have a long history of legislative and parliamentary work have chosen to allocate a museum Holdings of its historical parliaments.

In conclusion, the visit added to us a pride and a beautiful impact that will remain in our memory because of the prominent and important place this place holds within ourselves and our society.





source <<https://www.arabnews.com/node/1638621/cartoon-amiad-rasmi-courtesy-asharq-al-awsat>>



## The Political Virus

Fady William, 3rd Level, Political Science

Who can deny that the western mafias control our food, drink, clothes and medicine? Who can deny that our Arab markets are the market for the lowest quality products? The idea of a conspiracy is not in the Arab minds only, but there are many human beings who have the idea of a conspiracy, for example, the leader of the Russian liberal democratic party, Vladimir Gerinovici, who has openly accused the United States of spreading the developed corona virus in China.

And there are reports of a technical error that occurred in 2018 at the Wuhan Institute of Virology that led to the spread of the virus that has been manipulated, and some say that the spread of this virus was the result of the use of a U.S. biological weapon.

Also, three months before the outbreak in China, Daily Mail reported that scientists at the John Hawkins Center for Health Security had created a simulation model and predicted that the new virus would kill more than 65 million people around the world. Do we assume here good faith or there's intention to destroy humanity? In fact, China is the greatest victim and the pharmaceutical companies are trying to profit from the sale of medicine, and indeed the pharmaceutical companies have been quick to draw up plans to find a vaccine for the virus and all humanity is waiting for the time in which it is announced that a vaccine for this virus is found.

The economic losses will be huge and expectations that it will exceed 600 billion and some see it as a conspiracy and that the coronavirus is a "biological war", where some say that the Chinese city of Wuhan, the source of the spread of Corona disease, has been leaked from a biological laboratory while others have gone to it Secret biological warfare targeting China.

Some believe that the cause of the spread of the virus is "eating bats and snakes", where some have linked the spread of the disease to the Chinese people eating animals such as snakes, bats and other animals. And the Arab countries have many scenarios and there's only one disaster as there ar many infections in 16 countries so far. China is no longer the only source of the virus's spread and there are concerns after it is officially recognized as a global epidemic. Do countries such as Iraq, Syria, Palestine, Yemen, Libya, Sudan and others such as The Arab Countries have the capacity to cope with epidemics? Will Arab governments provide the necessary for their citizens to protect them from Corona? Will the countries stop competing with China, especially because Chinese products are the backbone of the Arab markets?

All these questions open the door to dialogue and reflection on the future of humanity as a whole. Can we eliminate the virus that could be artificial or the political conflicts will destroy the future of humanity?



## International Experiences for Moving and Shifting Capital Cities



By: Mohamed Baghdadi, PhD Researcher

There are many causes and varies between politics and economics and the most important of these reasons are: high population density, technical and technological progress, better distribution of wealth, traffic congestion, and climate fluctuations, usually On the Asian continent, 17 countries have witnessed a change in their capitals, including Sri Lanka. Since 1982, the country's parliament has been meeting in Sri Jayawardenapura Kotte, while some government departments are still operating in Colombo. Malaysia, which transferred its administrative duties to Putrajaya in the year 1999 AD, but the capital is still Kuala Lumpur. Tehran is the current capital of Iran, while Shiraz and Isfahan were the two former capitals of the country, so the current capital will be chosen. And among the Arab Asian countries that changed its capital, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, which changed its capital in 1818 AD from Diriyah to Riyadh. Likewise, Japan changed its capital in 1868 AD from Kyoto to Tokyo.

As for the European continent, Italy changed its former capital to Rome after the cities of Turin, Florence and Salerno were former capitals, as well as in Turkey, which turned to Ankara in 1923 AD, after Istanbul was the capital. While countries such as Brazil, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, and Nigeria have succeeded, other experiences such as Tanzania and Côte d'Ivoire have been less successful because the metropolis dominates the life capabilities of the two countries, while several other countries, such as Iran, are preparing to move their capital from Tehran due to nuclear concerns, calls have accelerated To move the Moroccan capital to the historical city of Fez and restore its consideration. Brazil is at the head of the countries that have achieved the success of the capital's transfer in it. When Kubitschek assumed the presidency of the Brazilian state in 1956 AD, he decided to build a new capital in the middle of the country, and transfer political power from "Rio de Janeiro" to "Brasilia", To be the third capital of Brazil after "Salvador" was the first.

The Russian experience comes on top of international experiences as a distinct experience, as it moved the capital from Moscow to the city of St. Petersburg, in the year 1712 AD, then returned again to Moscow in 1918. In the year 2015 AD, the idea of establishing a new administrative capital came; that project announced by the Egyptian government

in an expanded conference; to form a new smart city in Egypt; and to create many opportunities for housing and work and to provide a distinct life to adapt to the conditions of population and civilization growth in an electronic city that keeps pace with the progressive technological progress, this In addition to ensuring multiple strategic economic opportunities and an excellent quality of life. It was the first time in Egypt since 1978 that President Sadat was the owner of the idea of establishing a new capital, as a solution to the issue of overpopulation. The country has reached, and the city of Sadat has been chosen to make it a new administrative capital. This project cost approximately 25 million pounds, but the project did not achieve the goal of its establishment due to the difficulty of moving to Sadat City due to the difficulties of transportation and communication between it and the old capital.

At the end of the year 2019 AD, the Egyptian government developed specific strategies for moving to the new capital, namely: forming a committee in each ministry to study the transition situation, work to train employees on electronic programs, work to merge and separate some administrative units, while automating work in different ministries, and evaluate the performance of employees who They will be transferred, in addition to the establishment of a digital transformation unit in every ministry, other than the development of the labor management system, and the transfer of 53,700 employees in June 2020. The government has also put 5 axes to automate the work in the government district through the following: digitization and archiving of government documents, specialized applications, Human development, operational entity, common applications.

In light of this framework, there are many questions that arise before moving to the new capital, including: What are the main reasons why countries move their capitals? How many ministries and administrative units will be transferred? What is the relationship between new and old capitals? How can we benefit from international experience in the Egyptian case?

The issue of the transition of new capitals also raises many controversies that are embodied in the issue of building human and institutional capacities, restructuring of ministries and their relevance to the modern situation, the relations between the ministries in Cairo and the new capital, and the process of coordination between them. The administrative reasons for the shift towards the new capitals in international experiences, and what is the form of the relationship between the administrative capital and the provinces.



## MEMES AT DIFFICULT TIMES

By : Assile Mostafa  
1st Level, French Section

Nowadays ,the world is going through a lot of crises,starting from bad weather and global warming, torrential rains and interstate conflicts up to the devastating Corona virus, which made us question the possibility of a third world war. 2020 did not begin with a promising start as we had hoped or expected, and there is no doubt that all of these things create a bad mood throughout the world as a result of instability and anxiety.And on the contrary - in another parallel virtual life using Internet applications and social media - it seems that we have another reality.

So when you try to open the Facebook application for example, or any other social media application, you will see at least one of the publications or posts which are known as "Comic" or "Trend" who mock and ridicule these serious problems. In social media, you will find people who prefer to be infected with coronavirus than going to university. You will also find them mocking when the authorities advise citizens to be careful and take all the appropriate precautions to avoid the infection with coronavirus. All these satirical and comical articles on these serious subjects have aroused indignation and controversy among people, and some have severely attacked these types of publications.

Nevertheless, this type of comedy spreads very quickly, and it seems to impress most of the people, you will find them enjoying it and responding to it, which facilitates the spread of such publications.And here we have to ask a persistent question to resolve the dispute between these two parties - the party that encourages this kind of sarcastical publications, and the party that opposes such kind of publications – so which is more correct than the other?!And Is it okay to make fun of such serious subjects or do these publications reflect only a state of neglectance compared to the seriousness represented by such serious problems?

But before judging , let's see what are the arguments of each party, but first you will have to decide which side you are with, let's start with those who encourage these messages.

You might ask : What do they think? Maybe the one making this kind of publications is looking for attention and fame, or maybe he likes making these publications and finds great interaction from some of people, which made him guarantee positive reactions.

However, the most common case is that some people react positively to these publications because they find more peace and comfort that are most needed in times of crisis. There is a term called "Resistance with laughter", which is often used by psychiatrists to describe how some people cope up with anxiety, they prefer to laugh rather than cry about their worries. Of course, this does not come under the rubric of disclaimer, On the contrary, it happens because they want to deny that there is a problem , as a way to avoid pain or anxiety, by saying that they have nothing to do to change the bad reality or to improve it, it is not their duty to spread awareness and get rid of such problems, and according to the saying: "Panic about the problem kills more than the problem itself",

On the other hand, there are some people who are completely against such publications , as for them, this kind of comics only show a state of neglectance , as if they were under the effect of drugs , and unable to interact and help overcome their problems, they see that if everything that is serious in life becomes a joke , we will never get mature enough , and knowing when to laugh and when to take something seriously is a sign of maturity.

Can you imagine that you know someone who suffers from such serious problems , like Coronavirus infection, what would be his reaction if the people around made fun of such a pandemic ? In fact, these publications will not bring them peace or tranquility .An Expert says that stressing over such problems won't help, but denying reality and neglecting some of its painful consequences is not a good thing either, and you shouldn't take it all the time mockingly, but you have to laugh whenever possible .





## Fair Financial Play

Omar Khalid, 4th Year, Economics

After Manchester City dominated the local titles for two consecutive seasons and in preparation for the continental competition in the Champions League, the wind came as the ships did not desire the European Union penalty that fell like a thunderbolt on the Manchester City project confused all accounts for the team after the team was deprived of participating in European competitions for two seasons in addition to A fine of 30 million euros as a result of the club violating the rules of fair financial play, despite the club's appeal against the decision, but the impact of this decision cast a shadow on the future of the club, which has become unknown

The club's violation of the rules of fair financial play is the reason for the sanctions, but what is the idea of these rules?

The rules of fair financial play were intended to be the clubs 'revenues as a reward for their expenses and to ensure that there is no deficit in the clubs' budget, and aimed to prevent the idea of borrowing clubs from other clubs, in addition to that they forced the clubs to pay attention to the junior sector in the clubs, because buying players will lead to an occurrence Somehow deficit, it was an attempt to save club expenses.

However, many clubs penetrated these rules in different ways, such as Milan, who spent more than 200 million euros in the summer of 2017 in the hope of entering the club for the Champions League and obtaining advanced positions from them, he will receive returns equivalent to what was spent, but this did not happen and the club was subjected to punishment European League exclusion in addition to the club falling in debt and selling it to the Elliot Fund, also Chelsea broke the rules in contracting with under-age players illegally, which resulted in Chelsea under the penalty of being denied contracting with players

for two seasons, but then the matter was reduced for one season and There are many clubs that have fallen And the erosion of those rules was the last of Manchester city

The case began to appear from the German newspaper "Der Spiegel", which revealed in a series of leaks known as "Football Leaks" about a message from the club's economic director, "Jorge Schumelas", in which he requested to obtain liquidity worth 67.5 million pounds from the sponsoring company "Etihad Airways". The sponsorship contract between the club and the company provides for the payment of 8 million